

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 05556 281707Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 /075 W  
-----122695 281730Z /50

O 281631Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8622  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 5556

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, HO, ES  
SUBJECT: CONTINUING REACTION TO BORDER INCIDENT

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 5505 (DTG 231701Z NOV 77), (B) SAN SALVADOR  
5428 (DTG 232225Z NOV 77)

1. ARMED FORCES ISSUED ANOTHER COMMUNIQUE (NO. 114) DENYING GOES ACCUSATIONS OF HONDURAN VIOLATION OF SALVADORAN TERRITORY, ESPECIALLY AN ALLEGED SECOND INCURSION. COMMUNIQUE EXPRESSES ARMED FORCES "SURPRISE" THAT GOES MADE THESE CHARGES WHEN MEDIATION AGREEMENT RATIFICATIONS WERE BEING EXCHANGED AND REPEATS THAT THE ONLY INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED WAS THAT DESCRIBED IN PREVIOUS COMMUNIQUE (REF A).

2. PUBLIC REACTION IN GENERAL HAS BEEN SIMILAR TO THAT ALREADY REPORTED. TWO NEWSPAPERS EDITORIALIZED ON THE "SUSPICIOUS TIMING" OF THE INCIDENT, IMPLYING THAT IT SOMEHOW DUE TO SALVADORAN PLANS TO DELAY NEGOTIATIONS OR WORSE.

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3. AS MEMBER OF THE OAS OBSERVER TEAM TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE IN THE DISPUTED ZONE (WHICH THE GOES HAS ALWAYS IDENTIFIED PUBLICLY AS SALVADORAN), WHERE NO MILITARY PATROLS ARE SUPPOSED TO ENTER. HE ADDED THAT THE DEAD CAMPESINO WAS NOT A NEWCOMER TO THE AREA. HE WAS A LONG-TIME RESIDENT AND UNARMED, EXCEPT WITH A MACHETE. HOWEVER, HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE GOH HAS LONG BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT

THE INFILTRATION OF SALVADORAN SETTLERS, UNDER GOES AUSPICES, INTO THE DISPUTED AREAS AND HAD RAISED THE ISSUE WITH THE OAS AT THE NOVEMBER 15 MEETING, AS DESCRIBED IN COMMUNIQUE NO. 113.

4. COMMENT: NO QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED IN PUBLIC ABOUT THE ACCURACY OR INACCURACY OF EITHER GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENTS, ALTHOUGH SOMETHING IS OBVIOUSLY AMISS. THE ASSUMPTION HERE IS THAT THE GOH IS TELLING THE TRUTH, AND THE GOES IS NOT, AGAIN DEMONSTRATING DEEPLY FELT EMOTIONS JUST UNDER THE SURFACE. THESE EMOTIONS MAY BE STRONGER THERE THAN IN SALVADOR BECAUSE GOH DOES NOT HAVE DIFFICULT AND DISTRACTING INTERNAL PROBLEMS FACED BY GOES AND HONDURANS FEEL THEMSELVES THE AGGRIEVED, ATTACKED PARTY.

5. EMBASSY HAS NO INDICATION THAT EITHER GOVERNMENT WAS ACTUALLY SEEKING A CONFRONTATION. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE HONDURAN PATROL WENT LOOKING FOR ILLEGAL SETTLERS AND BECAME LOST, AS SUGGESTED BY COL. CARDONA (REF A), AND THOUGHT IT WAS IN HONDURAS. GOES COMMUNIQUE ACCUSING HONDURAS OF TERRITORIAL VIOLATION (DESCRIBING DISPUTED ZONE AS SALVADORAN) THEN FOLLOWED. OAS OBSERVER DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS SEEMS TO CONFIRM RELATIVELY LESS EFFECTIVE EXERCISE OF TROOP CONTROL BY GOH (REF B). INCIDENT CONTINUES UNDER INVESTIGATION BY OAS, ALTHOUGH ITS REPORT WILL REFLECT PARA 3 ABOVE. HOPEFULLY TENSIONS WILL THEN

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EASE, AS NEGOTIATIONS GET UNDERWAY. END COMMENT.  
JARAMILLO

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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